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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE THE APPLICATION OF

Robert A. Ford

SERIAL NO.: 09/698,798

FILED: October 27, 2000

FOR: ELECTRONICS COMPONENTS
LABELLING

TO EXAMINER'S ROOM

) Examiner: H. Pitts

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) Group Art Unit: 2876

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Director of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, Box Responses - No Fee on December 21, 2001.

Name of person signing Tandra Blue

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tandra Blue", written over a horizontal line.

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF JULY 30, 2001

Honorable Director of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This paper is being filed in response to the Examiner's above-identified office action. No amendments are being proposed since, upon reconsideration, it is submitted that no amendments are appropriate.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by either Nova, Hass or Moh. reconsideration is requested, since it is submitted that, if the rejection is understood, there is sufficient novelty of the present invention over the prior art, and the claims, as cast, are allowable thereover.

The application relates to the need to track electronics components during production and, in particular, to overcoming the difficulties of labelling electronics components for tracking, because of the limited surface available on such components for applying a label. The inventors have found that labels comprising certain formats of coded data symbols can be accommodated on electronics components, and these are symbols that can be read with a vision system.

The two Moh references admittedly relate to labelling products for tracking purposes, but the products they are concerned with, such as from steel industries, are considerably larger and more robust, and the problems addressed are as a result of, for example, excesses of temperature or durability. The Moh references are not concerned with electronics labelling; electronics components are a different class of products, being inherently delicate, and the robust treatment that other classes of products receive are not a concern.

The Nova reference relates to the tagging of biological and chemical reactants for tracking purposes. Nova contains neither teaching as regards electronics components nor is it apparent how the "matrices with memories" could be used in connection with electronics components.

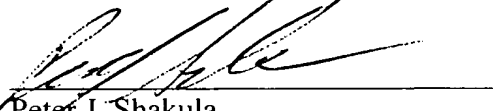
The Hass reference relates to a electronics module which may be used as a tag but it stores information electronically in an IC and the information is retrieved by electronic interrogation rather than visual interrogation. There is no labelling.

In summary, none of the cited references teaches the inventions as claimed. Allowance of the claims is therefore submitted to be in order and is solicited.

As this response is being filed during the fifth month following the Examiner's office action, an appropriate for extension of time is also submitted herewith.

Dated: December 21, 2001

Respectfully submitted,



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